

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
July 30, 2014



Tamekah Edwards picking produce in her Hartford garden, where she grows in beds and buckets that virtually cover her driveway. She sells at the nearby North End Farmer's Market.

URBAN AGRICULTURE, FARMERS' MARKETS TAKING ROOT ACROSS STATE

By Steve Jensen, Office of DoAg Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky

From cement-block beds and countless plastic buckets packed atop the cracked asphalt of her North End driveway, Tamekah Edwards harvests an astonishing bounty of crops that puts an urban twist on the term CT Grown.

Edwards began planting a few vegetables two summers ago when she decided eat more healthily, and grew so much last year that she had trouble giving it all away.

So this June she became one of an increasing number of smaller and often urban "market gardeners" certified by the Dept. of Agriculture to sell at farmers' markets. In her case, that's the North End Farmers' Market a few blocks from her home.

"It all started with me wanting to eat better and now - voila' - I'm here," she enthused while manning her table of herbs and greens and handmade soaps at the market last week.

In a suburban cul-de sac just off the Berlin Turnpike in Meriden, a similar story is being played out in Gilbert Coriano's backyard. He and his family have torn up the turf and converted the one-acre lot to a fruit and vegetable plot, with an eye toward selling at farmers' markets and a few bodegas in Meriden and nearby Berlin.

Like Edwards, Coriano started growing his own food a few years ago for health reasons, and realized he could expand his production area and earn some income doing something he loves with

his wife Charito and college-student son, Brendan.

"We started out wanting to be self-sufficient and it has just gone from there," he said. "We've always dreamed of doing this."

He plans to specialize in produce aimed at Latino customers, including a 30x50 plot dedicated entirely to cilantro.

Dept. of Agriculture marketing representative Rick Macsuga inspected Coriano's growing area last week and certified him as a market gardener, enabling him to accept Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) coupons for purchase.

Clients of the WIC and SNAP programs, as well as lower-income military veterans and senior citizens, can use the coupons to buy produce at farmers' markets.

Macsuga said many market gardeners eventually buy or lease more acreage as they become proficient in both the growing and business end of farming.

"It's a nice beginning step to getting your feet wet in agriculture," he said.

Edwards simply can't fit any more containers or makeshift beds in her 50-by-50-foot driveway growing area, so she expanded this season to another plot in a community garden behind the Univ. of Hartford.

(Continued on Pg. 3)

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, July 28, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	55.00	65.00
61-75 lbs.	110.00	125.00
76-90 lbs.	205.00	210.00
91-105 lbs.	215.00	220.00
106 lbs. & up	225.00	230.00
Farm Calves	270.00	300.00
Starter Calves	75.00	80.00
Veal Calves	130.00	300.00
Open Heifers	112.50	145.00
Beef Steers	123.00	165.00
Beef Heifers	120.00	167.50
Feeder Steers	125.00	140.00
Stock Bulls	140.00	155.00
Beef Bulls	129.00	162.50
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Goats each	120.00	175.00
Kid Goats	50.00	165.00
Canners	up to	115.00
Cutters	116.00	119.00
Utility Grade Cows	122.00	125.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	3.00	17.00
Chickens each	4.00	30.00
Ducks each	3.00	17.00
Feeder Pigs	50.00	65.00
Lambs	125.00	175.00
Sheep	140.00	145.00

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.42	1.51
LARGE	1.38	1.42
MEDIUM	.91	.93

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown egg in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.71	1.81
LARGE	1.68	1.78
MEDIUM	1.26	1.36

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
49-54	200-300 lbs	88.00	93.00
	300-400 lbs	85.00	87.00
54-58	200-300 lbs	96.00	103.00
	300-400 lbs	95.00	97.00
Sows, US1-3	300-500 lbs	76.00	79.00
	500-700 lbs	88.00	94.00
Boars	400-720 lbs	42.00	44.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
BLUEBERRIES CLAM SHELL	24.00	24.00
BLUEBERRIES PULP/NET	30.00	32.00
EGGPLANT, 1 1/9 BU	20.00	20.00
ALFALFA SPRTS 5 IB	14.00	14.00
BEAN SPRTS 10IB FILM	6.00	6.00
BEETS CARTON 12'S	12.00	13.00
BEETS, GOLD, 12'S	18.00	18.00
CARROTS, 12'S	12.00	12.00
CUCUMBERS, SELECT, 1 1/9BU	12.00	12.00
CORN, 5DZ	14.00	18.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, 50IB	11.00	12.00
CABBAGE, RED 50IB	14.00	14.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY 50IB	18.00	18.00
KOHLRABI 12'S	14.00	14.00
ONIONS GREEN 48'S MED	18.00	18.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, FCY, 1/2BU	12.00	12.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, MED, 1/2BU	4.00	6.00
SQUASH, GREEN, FCY, 1/2BU	12.00	12.00
SQUASH, GREEN, MED, 1/2BU	4.00	8.00
BEAN GREEN, BU	26.00	28.00
CUKES, SUPER SELECT, 1 1/9	18.00	18.00
BEAN WAX, BU	25.00	25.00
PARSNIPS, 25LBS	21.00	23.00
PARSNIPS 18-11B	23.00	23.00
RADISHES 1/2BU	18.00	18.00
KALE, 12'S	12.00	14.00
SWISS CHARD, 12'S	18.00	18.00
TOMATOES GRNHSE 12 IB	20.00	20.00
APPLES JERSEY MAC BU	30.00	30.00
BLACKBERRIES 12-1/2PT	30.00	30.00
BEETS, CHIOGGA, 12'S	18.00	18.00
CUKES, PICKLES 1/2BU	14.00	14.00
TOMATOES, 25LBS	35.00	35.00
PEACHES 1/2BU, YELLOW, 2 1/2	26.00	28.00
PEACHES 22LB, WHITE, 2 1/2	27.00	28.00
NECTARINES 22LB BOX	30.00	30.00
PLUM, METHLEY, 20LB	26.00	26.00

WHOLESALE BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Northeast, per. lb.

	Low	High
BREAST-B/S	2.05	2.10
TENDERLOINS	2.35	2.40
LEGS	.61	.62
LEG QUARTERS	.49	.50
THIGHS	.74	.75
B/S THIGHS	1.36	1.37
WINGS	1.45	1.46
LIVER, 5LB TUBS	.55	.60
GIZZARDS	.75	.80

PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Average Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	Low	High
breakers 75-80% lean	105.00	114.00
boners 80-85% lean	104.00	113.00
lean 85-90% lean	94.00	104.00
CALVES graded bull		
No 1 120-128lbs	250.00	250.00
No 2 120-128lbs	240.00	240.00
No 3 100-130lbs	260.00	260.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm2-3	156.00	164.00
Ch2-3	150.00	155.00
Sel2-3	145.00	149.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS.		
HiCh/prm3-4	159.00	167.00
Ch2-3	156.00	161.00
Sel2-3	155.00	158.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/prm3-4	148.00	156.00
Ch2-3	141.00	150.00
Sel2-3	135.00	142.50
VEALERS	n/a	
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3		
50-70lbs	192.00	202.00
80-90lb	180.00	197.00
90-110lbs	174.00	196.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3		
100-150lbs	80.00	88.00
150-190lbs	88.00	94.00
Bucks		
140-2000lbs hair	75.00	94.00
225-250lbs	65.00	97.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel. 1, by head, est.		
20-40lb	n/a	n/a
40-60lb	115.00	134.00
60-80lb	138.00	142.00
80-110lb	180.00	190.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130lbs	n/a	
130-150lbs	142.00	180.00
Bucks/Billies: 130-150lbs	180.00	240.00
150-200lbs	245.00	285.00

PA GRADED FEEDER PIGS

Lancaster, PA, per cwt. July 2

		Low	High
Gr US 1-	WT 20-40	250.00	385.00
	WT 40-50	225.00	250.00
	WT50-60	200.00	210.00
	WT60-70	225.00	325.00
GR.US 2-	WT20-25	325.00	385.00
	WT25-30	235.00	325.00
	WT30-40	250.00	310.00
	WT40-60	185.00	235.00

EASTERN, PA, HAY

average price per ton

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	200.00-250.00	150.00-195.00
MIXED	190.00-400.00	150.00-185.00
TIMOTHY	210.00-250.00	140.00-170.00
STRAW		110.00-260.00

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

100-R. Farm for sale in Bristol. 13 acres-32X36 barn and outbuildings. 1940 farmhouse with 3 bedrooms. City sewer and well water (city water available). Pasture fenced, 2 brooks. 860-635-1379.

108-R. Purebred Katahdin Ram for sale. Great producer, registration papers available, mostly white. \$350.00. 860-354-9069.

MISCELLANEOUS

10-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

WANTED

98-R. Standing timber wanted, Hardwood/softwood. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 15 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

109-R. Help Wanted: Full time, year round position for experienced greenhouse grower to maintain large collection of mostly tropical plants, starting 9/1/2014 in Cheshire, CT. Experience related to pest management, plant nutrition and organizational skills are necessary. A Private Applicators license is absolutely required. No retail, managerial or customer service experience needed. Degree in horticulture not required but highly desired. Understanding of greenhouse systems and equipment necessary. Carpentry, plumbing and electrical abilities are also desirable. Physical ability to lift 50 lbs required and box truck driving capability also a plus. 40 hours minimum per week with overtime expected in peak seasons of April-June and September-November. We are looking for someone with long term potential who is a self-starter, motivated and seeking alternative to traditional growing. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Please contact John@gardensatcheshire.com



Bunches of callaloo, a popular West Indian green, for sale at the North End Farmers' Market in Hartford.

URBAN AGRICULTURE TAKING ROOT ACROSS STATE

(Continued from Pg. 1)

Like many growers at the North End market, she specializes in produce favored by the area's West Indian and Asian communities.

Along with kale, swiss chard and collard greens, she and several other vendors offer callaloo, which she describes as "like spinach but a little tastier."

She also sells handmade soaps that feature her own dried herbs like lavender and sage and mint, as well as oatmeal and a rich-smelling bar of coffee soap that she says both exfoliates and protects the skin from the sun.

"I did great today with my soaps," she said as she gathered up a few remaining bars as the market closed. "They were going so fast I couldn't tally them all up."

The market is held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the lawn of the North End Senior Center, and drew more than 400 customers last week, market manager Sarana Beik said.

"It's been our busiest day so far," she said. "A lot of growers are sold out. We're pretty pumped about that."

The market was launched in 2008 by the city and Beik's employer, Hartford Food System, a non-profit organization whose mission is "to create an equitable and sustainable food system that addresses the underlying causes of hunger and poor nutrition facing low and moderate-income Hartford residents."

In other words, the market is an oasis in what some call an urban food desert. Hartford Food System is trying to address that by running seven different one- or two-day markets in the city, many in or near neighborhoods stressed by poverty and crime.

There are also farmers' markets in Bridgeport, Waterbury, Stamford, Middletown and Danbury, as well as six in New Haven alone.

"Farmers markets in cities are not going to solve poverty or a lack of awareness and access to good nutrition," Beik said. "We are under no illusions about that. But the more we can connect people to the source of healthy food, the more likely they are to be able to retain that experience and make it part of their lives."

Joe Dombroski, another grower at the North End market, tailors his crops to the market much like Edwards does.

His offerings include things like puna cara, an Indian cucumber, and a frilly Asian green known as mizuna. This day, he had sold all the bok choy, collards and other greens he had picked from his leased plot at the Simsbury Community Farm.

A former truck driver who also sells at the Coventry Farmer's Market, Dombroski's plans for next year include obtaining some land and equipment of his own.

"It's a great little niche market here," he said. "And every week's been busier than the last."

Dept. of Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Revczky said the emergence of urban growers and markets is more evidence of the vitality of agriculture in Connecticut, which leads New England in the growth of new farms.

"It takes both commitment and creativity to grow and market your products in these non-traditional farming areas," he said. "I credit the tenacity these growers and the organizations that are helping assist them are demonstrating in bringing healthy, local food to the table in their communities."

CAES PRESENTS PLANT SCIENCE DAY 2014

The CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) on Aug. 6 will hold Plant Science Day 2014 at Lockwood Farm, the Station's 75-acre research farm at 890 Evergreen Ave., Hamden. The annual free event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features a day of scientific inquiry, discovery, and updates on research advances in agriculture, food safety, the environment and public health. The event is open to the public and takes place rain or shine. Among the highlights of the day are the Century Farm Award, the Samuel W. Johnson Memorial Lecture, and a visit from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy.

For more information call toll-free 877-855-2237 or visit:

CT.gov/CAES or CT.gov/CAES/psd14



Upper left: DoAg's Rick Macsuga meets with the Coriano family in Meriden, where they are converting their one-acre backyard into a fruit and vegetable growing area. Upper right: some of the handmade soaps that Tamekah Edwards sells at the North End Farmers' Market in Hartford, where last week market manager Sarana Beik (below left) helped a customer while (below right) a jazz combo played.



Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. For more information contact Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.
Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2015.

VOL. XCIV, No. 30, July 30, 2014

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**
www.CTGrown.gov 860-713-2500

Commissioner steven.reviczky@ct.gov	Steven K. Reviczky 860-713-2501
Marketing joseph.dippel@ct.gov	Joseph Dippel 860-713-2503
Regional Market joseph.dippel@ct.gov	Joseph Dippel 860-566-3699
Farmland Preservation cam.weimar@ct.gov	Cameron Weimar, Ph.D 860-713-2511
Regulation & Inspection bruce.sherman@ct.gov	Dr. Bruce Sherman 860-713-2504
State Veterinarian mary.lis@ct.gov	Dr. Mary J. Lis 860-713-2505
Aquaculture david.carey@ct.gov	David Carey 203-874-2855
Agricultural Report Editor steve.jensen@ct.gov	Steve Jensen 860-713-2519